

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Original) A power converter couplable to a source of electrical power adapted to provide an input voltage thereto, comprising:

a power train including a switch, referenced to said input voltage and subject to a control voltage limit, configured to conduct for a duty cycle and provide a regulated output characteristic at an output of said power converter;

a controller configured to provide a signal to control said duty cycle of said switch; and

a driver including switching circuitry referenced to a voltage level different from said input voltage and configured to provide a drive signal for said switch within said control voltage limit as a function of said signal from said controller.

17. (Original) The power converter as recited in Claim 16 wherein said controller is configured to provide a complement of said signal to control said duty cycle of said switch, said driver being configured to provide said drive signal for said switch within said control voltage limit as a function of said complement of said signal from said controller.

18. (Original) The power converter as recited in Claim 16 wherein said switch is a metal oxide semiconductor field effect transistor (MOSFET) referenced to said input voltage, said switching circuitry configured to provide a gate drive signal for said switch within a gate voltage limit thereof.

19. (Currently Amended) The power converter as recited in Claim 16 wherein said switching circuitry comprises a plurality of driver switches ~~couplable to ground~~, ones of said plurality of driver switches being couplable to said ground, said source of electrical power and a bias voltage source for providing a bias voltage, ones of said plurality of driver switches configured to cooperate to provide said drive signal referenced to said input voltage and within said control voltage limit of said switch.

20. (Original) The power converter as recited in Claim 16 wherein said switching circuitry comprises at least one driver switch configured to enable a mode of operation wherein said drive signal for said switch is referenced to said voltage level.

21.-23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously Presented) The power converter as recited in Claim 16 wherein a voltage of said drive signal is less than said input voltage.

25. (New) A method of operating a power converter couplable to a source of electrical power adapted to provide an input voltage thereto, comprising:

controlling a power train including a switch, referenced to said input voltage and subject to a control voltage limit, to conduct for a duty cycle and provide a regulated output characteristic at an output of said power converter;

providing a signal to control said duty cycle of said switch; and

providing a drive signal for said switch within said control voltage limit as a function of said signal with a driver including switching circuitry referenced to a voltage level different from said input voltage.

26. (New) The method as recited in Claim 25, further comprising:
providing a complement of said signal to control said duty cycle of said switch; and
providing said drive signal for said switch within said control voltage limit as a function of
said complement of said signal.

27. (New) The method as recited in Claim 25 wherein said switch is a metal oxide
semiconductor field effect transistor (MOSFET) referenced to said input voltage, said drive signal
being a gate drive signal within a gate voltage limit thereof.

28. (New) The method as recited in Claim 25 wherein said switching circuitry
comprises a plurality of driver switches, ones of said plurality of driver switches being couplable to
said ground, said source of electrical power and a bias voltage source for providing a bias voltage,
ones of said plurality of driver switches configured to cooperate to provide said drive signal
referenced to said input voltage and within said control voltage limit of said switch.

29. (New) The method as recited in Claim 25 further comprising enabling a mode of
operation wherein said drive signal for said switch is referenced to said voltage level.

30. (New) The method as recited in Claim 25 wherein a voltage of said drive signal is
less than said input voltage.